

UTEC Meeting Minutes 4/12/2011

Attendees: Bill Harclerode, Alan Ford, Chuck Neary, Don Church, John Wingler, Rick Anghes, Steve Hurford, Chuck LaTournous

Notice published in Hunterdon Democrat and Express Times satisfies the Open Public meeting Act. Also posted on Township Web Site.

Rick Anthes (NJWSA, Sidney Brook Riparina Project) was present and discussed getting quotes for plants for Sidney Brook riparian project from 2 different nurseries. Still waiting to get DEP GP 16 permit for the planting in the Wetlands. NJDEP and UTEC are co-applicants on the permit. April 30 is the scheduled day for the planting if permit approved. Parking at the Bethlehem Pres. Church and/or at the farm (if we can get permission from the new owner). Approximately 1-2 acres will be planted in 4 sections along the Sidney Brook and to comprise 1-2 acres in area. Largest plants will be approx 5' tall most are 3' - 4' high. Some plants are staked and others may be driven directly into the riverbank. Some of the trees will be caged to protect them from the deer. Approx 300 plants will be brought in for planting. We need plenty of volunteers, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. - need about 20 volunteers to get all the planting done. Rick will have a gas powered auger to assist in the digging process. Planting will start at 9 am. Plants are coming from Columbus NJ delivery charge is \$300. Plants will be purchased as soon as the permit is obtained. Volunteers should bring boots as it will be wet and muddy.

John Wingler was also in attendance, he had submitted a resignation letter, and is leaving the UTEC and said good-bye and thank you to everyone. He wanted to come in person to say goodbye to everyone in person. John will be missed!

Approval of March Meeting Minutes - motion by Chuck Neary seconded and approved.

Old Business

Annual SBWA cleanup on 4/16 there will be 15-20 Scouts to help cleanup the South Branch tributary along route 173.

Well Testing (Sandy)

Tentative date 6/6 for drop off of samples for UT residents. Results go back to the home owner. May want to change 6/7 in the morning so it coincides with the Primaries. Don Church volunteered to help collect samples on whichever date is chosen.

Public education event. (All)

Need to pick a topic, possibly stink bugs and their problem. Can use the riparian planting event as education for the Scouts, public, etc. Discussed getting speakers for these topics (invasive species and stink bugs, rain gardens (barrels), etc.). Bill will look into rain gardens s and Chuck will look into the stink bugs. We need speakers and need to investigate cost of speaker for Rain Gardens, Stink Bugs and Invasive Species. Melissa Amender was a previous speaker for invasive species and Chuck Neary will contact her. Chuck La T will investigate stink bugs speakers. Bill H will investigate the Rain Garden speakers.

Morris Land Conservancy-updating of Open Space Plan
Mayor Bischoff was advised of their proposal and was concerned about the cost to taxpayers. The current Plan is probably still adequate.

No New Business

Correspondence

We received a letter from NJ State Police to Assemblyman Eric Peterson regarding the enforcement of engine braking noise on Rte 78. Ten noise meters will be ordered and put into use this summer. Rutgers Noise Technical Assistance Center in New Brunswick will help in the training. Best locations were identified as the truck weigh stations on Rt. 78 and Rt. 295 in S. Jersey. Enforcement will commence this summer but only in these 2 locations initially. Bill states that approx. 3-5% of all trucks have bad mufflers.

Revised submission received for Jutland Shell station for the convenience center regarding the 3 entrances to the facility.

Hunterdon Area Regional Transport (HART) has offered to help out with Green Sustainable NJ certification. Chuck La Tournous will evaluate their offer.

Diesel Idling- Email from DEP advised us that the current exemption for sleeper berths will officially expire on May 1st. Exemption still exists for 2007 or newer trucks because of lower emissions. Older trucks will have to use APU's (auxiliary power units)

Letter from Williams Gas Co as they want to increase gas pipeline deliveries. Web site available for looking at proposal and submitting comments.

Hunterdon County Planning Awards- 2 awards received by UTEC teams- Green Team (C. La Tournous) won as did the Stewardship Team (M. McBride- Douglass Farm). Mayor Bischoff was very proud of the accomplishments.

Chairs Report

Bill thanked everyone on UTEC for their continuing hard work and team spirit.

Subcommittee Reports

Open Space- (C. Neary)- nothing new to report.

Trail projects - Finn Rd markers starting to go up. Don volunteered to lead this team since John has moved on.

Milligan farm trail- we have a grant to do this trail but need access to the site via curb cut and parking lot. Need to get road cutout for parking area. Tied into the COAH. Don Church volunteered to take over this project and will contact Michelle McBride for details.

Planning Board (A. Ford) - meeting canceled on Thursday.

Renewable Energy Ordinance is now with the Township Committee.

Pattenburg quarry fill work in continuing per existing permit for UT side. They are storing equipment on the Union Township side of the property.

Buildings are being torn down as they are a hazard. 2.2M yards of fill due for Bethlehem side of quarry. No plans for the reclaimed property yet. May turn it into a solar farm.

Pilot still does not have an approved idling plan; expecting them to submit to the Planning Board soon.

Road Noise (B. Harclerode)

Bill will resubmit proposed ordinance back to Town Committee for engine braking/ muffler noise. Road noise group from various townships will send letters on 5/7 to all municipalities to support recommendation for increased fines; the fines are very low now and not an effective deterrent.

Communication / Education (C. La Tournous)

Newsletter (spring) will be an e-newsletter not written. Fall's will be written. Chuck has enough articles for e-newsletter and put on website.

Discussion on revisions to the UT website and what will be done with it.

Chuck launched a FB Page launched for UT, we need to get more "friends" so we can get an official "Friendly" URL.

Recycling- Union Township is now taking Electronics and they have a special container for this material.

Sidney Brook 319H grant (Bill): Our request to reallocate funds to support riparian planting was turned down. NJWSA will instead pay for this out of their own pocket.

Highlands Committee (Alan, Bill) - nothing to report, no meetings held.

Environmental Easement Education. (C. Neary)

Michelle put in for grant for environmental easement awareness.

Hearings from Citizens....none present.

Steve Hurford noted that ANJEC had an article on Sidney Brook and a photo of Bill, Michelle, and Chuck Neary standing by Sidney Brook on their newsletter.

Meeting was Adjourned= moved by Alan Ford and seconded by Chuck La Tournous and approved.